
EVENT CENTER OR EVIL CENTER?

*A Critical Reflection on the Modern Wedding Practices among
Hausa Communities*

By Husain M. Inuwa

Contact: 09042152353 / usainiskima@gmail.com

About the Article:

EVENT CENTER OR EVIL CENTER is a brief but concise article on the troubling transition from traditional to modern wedding celebrations among the Hausa community in Kano and other parts of the Northwestern region of Nigeria — from Dandali (grace) to Event Centres (grass).

Introduction:

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I also bear witness that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His servant and His messenger.

I wish to use this opportunity to highlight the increasing trend of indecent displays during wedding celebrations, now common in almost every community across Kano State and other Northwestern regions of Nigeria. These shameful practices often occur at venues known as “Event Centres” — places that appear organized but are morally degrading.

Discussion:

It should be noted that wedding celebrations are encouraged in Islam (Sharī'ah), as marriage is a great blessing from Allah, who has allowed the couple to attain happiness, modesty, and chastity. Throughout history, people have celebrated this blessing, and they continue to do so today, albeit through diverse customs and traditions across different societies.

Islamic law does not seek to pressure people into abandoning their cultural practices or compel them to follow only one way of celebration. A proper study of Sharī'ah reveals that, in principle, customs are permissible — provided they do not contradict Islamic rulings or lead to hardship or public embarrassment.

Muslims are encouraged to conform to the customs of their people, as long as these customs do not violate Islamic principles. Scholars have ruled that it is commendable to resemble one's people in cultural matters, drawing from the ruling that Muslims should not deliberately stand out in their dress or conduct. The Prophet (peace be upon him) is reported to have said: "Whoever wears a garment of fame and vanity, Allah will clothe him in a garment of humiliation on the Day of Resurrection." He also said: "Whoever imitates a people is one of them."

As mentioned earlier, the so-called Event Centre has now become commonplace in nearly every neighborhood in Kano, due to its status as one of the most profitable businesses today. Like many ventures, it is frequented by both the wealthy and the less privileged, depending on their financial capacity. As a result, enormous income is generated from the frequent wedding celebrations held almost every weekend. Consequently, new Event Centres are springing up across the city.

However, this harmful trend has infiltrated and eroded our noble traditions, cultural values, and religious principles — and, in some cases, has even replaced them. Nowadays, any wedding not held at an Event Centre is considered outdated, boring, or uncivilized. Refusing to conform can lead to serious disagreements among intending couples, their in-laws, and extended family members.

Why Event Centres Have Become 'Evil Centres'

To be clear, it is not the concept of the Event Centre itself that is objectionable, but rather the immoral activities and indecent behaviors that occur there.

Believe me, Event Centres have ruined the lives of many innocent girls — young women who had preserved their chastity until they were lured into disgraceful situations by unscrupulous individuals (boyfriends, girlfriends, or so-called “bad guys”) who also attend these events with impure intentions.

Likewise, Event Centres have corrupted many innocent young men who once upheld their moral values, only to find themselves willingly or unwillingly drawn into shameful acts — dancing, embracing, and even kissing their brides in public. Numerous videos of such indecent acts are now widely circulated across social media platforms.

Even married women have not been spared. Some have ended up divorced after their husbands discovered the shameful conduct they exhibited during these gatherings.

This social cancer is far more dangerous than any physical disease because its impact extends beyond individuals to corrupt entire communities — undermining their religion, traditions, values, and moral fabric.

This menace has contributed significantly to the moral decline of our society, to the point where wedding celebrations have become a 'do-or-die' affair.

In a recent case in Badawa, Kano, a woman reportedly killed her brother for refusing to allow their younger sister's wedding to be celebrated at an Event Centre — a venue already booked by the elder sister. This is just one of many similar incidents occurring across Kano and the broader Northwestern region.

Immoral Displays at These Gatherings

Let me highlight some of the indecent and forbidden practices commonly observed at Event Centre wedding celebrations:

- 1. Unchaperoned mixing of men and women, including greetings, handshakes, and joint dancing.*
- 2. Photography of women by men and vice versa.*
- 3. Consumption of intoxicants (e.g., shisha, codeine).*
- 4. Public displays of affection, such as the husband entering the women's section to kiss or dance with his wife.*
- 5. Women wearing tight, short, or revealing clothing — even among themselves, let alone in front of men.*
- 6. Extravagant spending and showmanship.*
- 7. Exchanging of wedding rings, mimicking Western traditions.*

A Call for Reform

Parents, couples, and relatives must fear Allah and understand that the more they adhere to Islamic teachings during their wedding celebrations, the more blessings, love, and harmony they will enjoy in their marriages — and the fewer problems they will face.

When a marriage begins with disobedience to Allah, how can one expect it to be successful? There are countless cases where such disobedient beginnings led to the quick collapse of marriages.

Recommendations:

Government: *Impose strict taxes on all Event Centres — whether high-end or modest — to discourage their proliferation.*

Community elders: *Ensure that such centres are not permitted in their communities.*

Religious leaders: *Use sermons and lectures to warn against immoral practices.*

Stakeholders: *Organize campaigns and symposiums to educate parents and youth.*

And Allah knows best.

Husain M. Inuwa (Concerned Baha'ushe)

☎ 09042152353

✉ usainiskima@gmail.com